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California Applauds U.S. Oceans Commission's Call to Action and Commits to Lead the Way in Protecting and Managing Ocean and Coastal Resources

California Resources Secretary Mike Chrisman and California Environmental Protection Agency Secretary Terry Tamminen today made the following statements upon release of the draft report by the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy regarding national ocean management.

"The U.S. Oceans Commission Report is a call to action at both the federal and state levels. Protecting our ocean and coastal resources is a top priority of this Administration," said Secretary Chrisman. "Governor Schwarzenegger has instructed us to develop a response to this report and to determine how California can best address the critical issues facing our coast and oceans. We will take a careful look at our current programs and provide leadership to coordinate state ocean protection activities."

"California is known for its beaches and magnificent coastline more than any other single feature. Tourism contributes \$75 billion to California's economy, and employs over 1 million Californians," said Secretary Tamminen. "Our coastal waters are in trouble due to pollution, coastal development, habitat destruction and overfishing. The need for action is clear."

"We must mobilize California's world class scientific resources and create public-private partnerships with academic, business, private foundations and other non-governmental interests to carry out this important work" Secretary Chrisman continued. "On May 6, Secretary Tamminen and I will convene a 'California Ocean Summit' in Sacramento to call on experts from industry, academia, and non-governmental organizations to advise Governor Schwarzenegger on his response to this report."

The report released for a one-month review by the nation's governors identifies the following key points, among others:

- Oceans and coasts are major contributors to the U.S. economy
- Despite progress, ocean and coastal resources are in trouble

- Current institutions are outdated and incompatible with our new understanding of complex ecosystems

This call to action in the draft report is consistent with the general findings of the independent Pew Oceans Commission report issued last year that called national attention to the fact that our oceans are in crisis.

The report can be found on the Web at: <http://www.oceancommission.gov>

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